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Mr. Dulles Spills the Beans

by Percy B. Mills

CPYRGHT

Espionage was surely not one of the activities Gerard Manley Hopkins had in mind when he gave glory to God for "all trades, their gear and tackle and trim." But Allen Dulles would put the

The Craft of Intelligence
by Allen Dulles
(Harper & Row; \$4.95)

spy business right in there with the others. He sees Intelligence as a trade, with highly colorful trappings; and when practiced by craftsmen who are on the side of the angels, not unworthy to be included in hymns of praise. Mr. Dulles retired in November 1961, after nearly nine years as Director of Central Intelligence. Since he could no longer engage in his favorite occupation, he did the next best thing. He wrote a book about it—a sort of textbook for which there is no course—or at least not outside the training department of CIA anyway.

To round off a distinguished career in government by writing a book about your work is not unusual, unless your career happened to be in the Clandestine Services. Not even the identity of the head of the British Secret Service is revealed to the general public. He is

known only to the government officials who have to do business with him. He could not conceivably produce a book about the trade, no matter if it too were anonymous. But as Dulles points out in his first chapter, "On the whole, Americans are inclined to talk too much about matters which should be classified."

He evidently considered that an explanation for *The Craft of Intelligence* was in order, and here it is:

"Since returning to private life... I have felt that it was high time that someone—even though he is a deeply concerned advocate—should tell what properly can be told about intelligence as a vital element of the structure of our government in this modern age."

Now, assuming that this feeling was right, who else could that "someone" be but the former Director of Central Intelligence? Any other potential author would be disqualified on one of two possible counts: if he had not been a high-level employee of CIA, he would not know what properly could be told about the American intelligence effort. If he had been in the Agency, he would either have to get CIA's imprimatur (he couldn't) or be subject to fine and imprisonment for breaking the oath he signed when he left.

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